

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A DC/DC voltage converter comprising:
 - a first positive terminal and a first negative terminal for connection respectively to two terminals of a high-voltage electrical network;
 - a second positive terminal and a second negative terminal for connection respectively to two terminals of a low-voltage electrical network; and

n cells connected in parallel, where n is an integer greater than unity, disposed between said first positive and negative terminals and between said second positive and negative terminals, each cell comprising a chopper DC/DC converter, each having a first circuit branch interconnecting said first and second negative terminals, a second circuit branch including an inductor and interconnecting said first and second positive terminals, at least one chopper switch, and a first management unit adapted to control switching of the chopper switch with a determined duty ratio;

wherein each cell further comprises a single protection transistor disposed in said second circuit branch and associated with a protection management unit for taking said cell out of service independently of the other cells;

wherein the protection transistor of each cell is a MOS transistor connected in series in said second circuit branch of the cell between the inductor and said second positive terminal, and including an intrinsic diode having ~~an anode and a its~~ cathode connected to the inductor, ~~the and its~~ anode connected to said second positive terminal.

2-3. Canceled.

4. (Previously Presented) A converter according to claim 1, wherein the single protection transistor in each cell is connected in a high-voltage portion of the cell.

5. (Previously Presented) A converter according to claim 4, wherein the MOS transistor connected in series in said second circuit branch so as to be immediately adjacent to said first positive terminal, and having the intrinsic diode connected to said first positive terminal by its cathode.

6-37. Canceled.